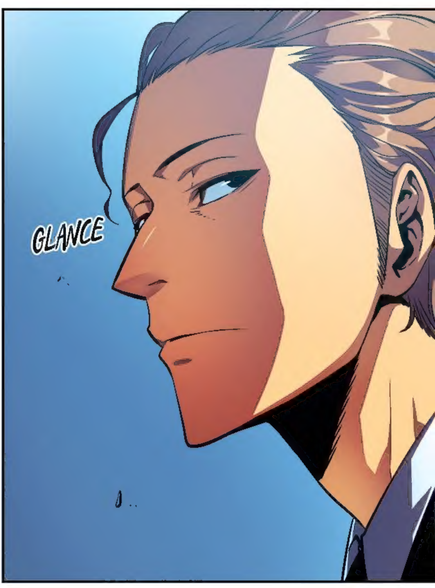
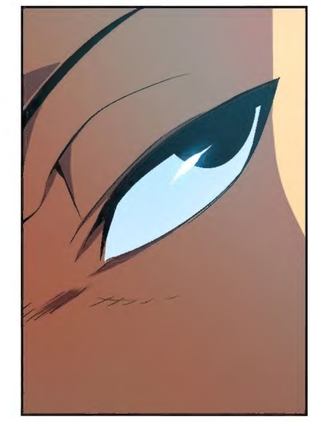
MR. WOO JINCHUL.

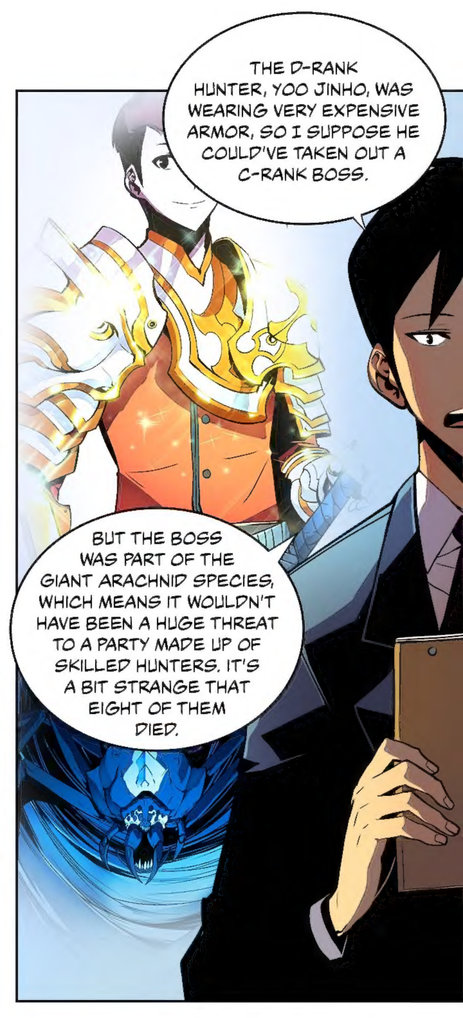

GLANCE

YES?
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS...

JUST RECENTLY, EIGHT HUNTERS DIED DURING A C-RANK DUNGEON RAID.
THE ONLY SURVIVORS WERE A D-RANK AND E-RANK HUNTER.

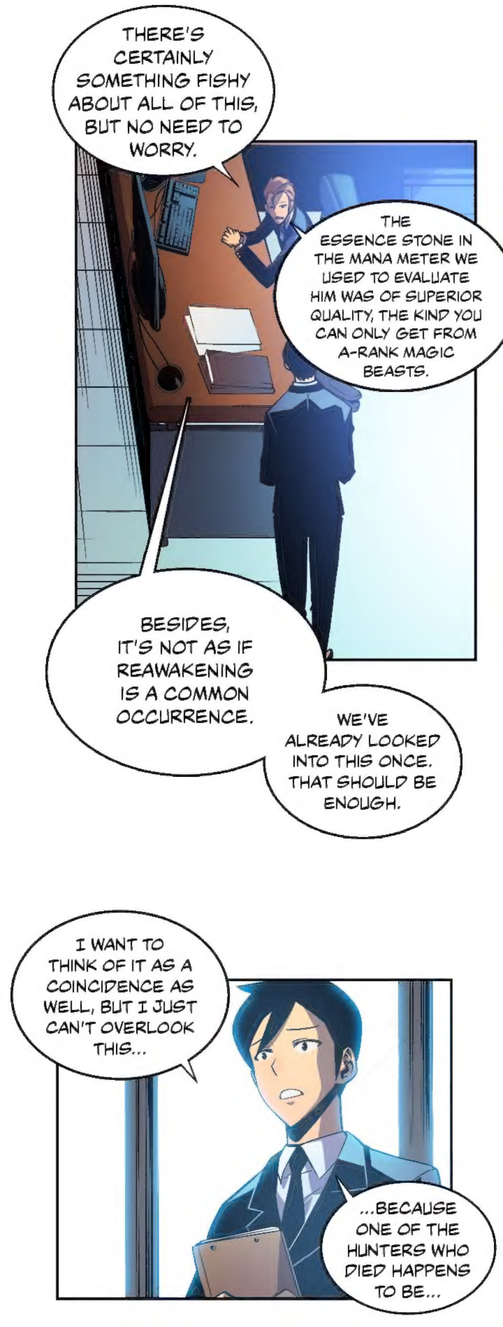
THEY MUST'VE FLED. IT HAPPENS QUITE OFTEN.
FLIP
NO, THEY DIDN'T RUN AWAY. THEY ACTUALLY MANAGED TO CLEAR THE DUNGEON.




THE D-RANK HUNTER, YOO JINHO, WAS WEARING VERY EXPENSIVE ARMOR, SO I SUPPOSE HE COULD'VE TAKEN OUT A C-RANK BOSS.
BUT THE BOSS WAS PART OF THE GIANT ARACHNID SPECIES, WHICH MEANS IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A HUGE THREAT TO A PARTY MADE UP OF SKILLED HUNTERS. IT'S A BIT STRANGE THAT EIGHT OF THEM DIED.

STOP BEATING AROUND THE BUSH AND GET TO THE POINT.
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE COME TO ME IF YOU'D ACTUALLY FOUND SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS. YOU WOULD'VE TAKEN CARE OF IT YOURSELF.
WELL...

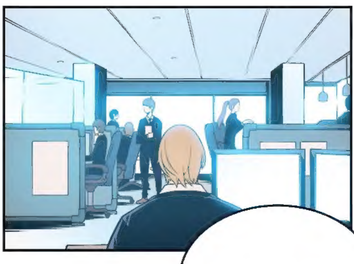
...THE OTHER SURVIVOR IS SUNG JINWOO, THE HUNTER FROM THE DOUBLE DUNGEON INCIDENT.
SUNG JINWOO?


THERE'S CERTAINLY SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT ALL OF THIS, BUT NO NEED TO WORRY.
THE ESSENCE STONE IN THE MANA METER WE USED TO EVALUATE HIM WAS OF SUPERIOR QUALITY, THE KIND YOU CAN ONLY GET FROM A-RANK MAGIC BEASTS.
BESIDES, IT'S NOT AS IF REAWAKENING IS A COMMON OCCURRENCE.
WE'VE ALREADY LOOKED INTO THIS ONCE. THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH.

I WANT TO THINK OF IT AS A COINCIDENCE AS WELL, BUT I JUST CAN'T OVERLOOK THIS...
...BECAUSE ONE OF THE HUNTERS WHO DIED HAPPENS TO BE...

HWANG DONGSUK?

ARE YOU... TALKING ABOUT HUNTER HWANG DONGSOO'S OLDER BROTHER?

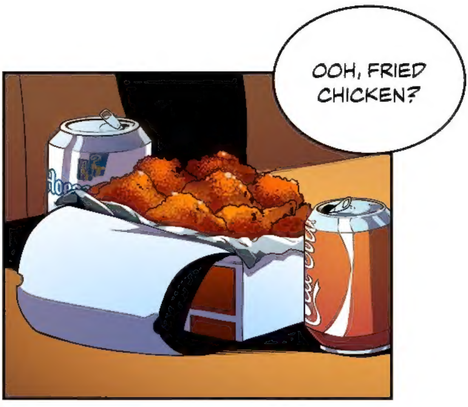


NOW, THAT'S...

...DEFINITELY NOT SOMETHING WE SHOULD OVERLOOK.

Solo Leveling

Art · DUBU(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Novel · Chugong


OOH, FRIED CHICKEN?

DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN?
WELL, ONLY TIME WILL TELL WHETHER IT'S A GOOD THING OR A BAD THING...
WOW, WHAT'S THE OCCASION? YOU'RE USUALLY SUPER STINGY.

I WANT TO GET DRUNK, BUT I CAN'T.
GULP
GULP
NOTICE
[HARMFUL SUBSTANCES HAVE BEEN DETECTED IN YOUR BODY.]
[BUFF: DETOXIFICATION HAS BEEN ACTIVATED.
YOU ARE NOW BEING HEALED.]
THE SPECIAL ABILITY GIVEN TO ME BY THE SYSTEM IS PURIFYING THE ALCOHOL.
NOM
NOM
3, 2, 1... YOU HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY DETOXIFIED.
AS SOON AS I WOKE UP AFTER THE DOUBLE DUNGEON INCIDENT, THE SYSTEM GAVE ME THIS AS A REWARD.
NOTICE
[YOU HAVE MET ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS TO COMPLETE THE SECRET QUEST: 'COURAGE OF THE WEAK.']
MESSAGE
YOU HAVE UNREAD MESSAGES.
I'VE HAD A LOT TO PROCESS UP UNTIL

NOW, SO I JUST BRUSHED IT OFF, BUT...

[IF YOU FAIL TO FOLLOW THE SYSTEM'S ORDERS, YOU WILL BE GIVEN A PENALTY.]

NOTICE

[YOU HAVE RECEIVED A REWARD.]

...I NEVER IMAGINED I'D GET A REWARD LIKE THIS.

QUEST REWARD

"SECRET QUEST: COURAGE OF THE WEAK"

-THE GREAT SPELLCASTER KANDIARU'S BLESSING: THE GREAT SPELLCASTER KANDIARU HAS GIFTED YOU A SPECIAL ENCHANTMENT. AS LONG AS YOU HAVE KANDIARU'S BLESSING, YOU WILL ALWAYS BE HEALTHY AND STRONG.

IT'S ALL THANKS TO THIS QUEST REWARD THAT MY LEG WAS REGENERATED AFTER I LOST IT IN THE DOUBLE DUNGEON.

QUEST REWARD

-TEMPORARY EFFECT, THE WILL TO RECOVER: ANY DAMAGES TO THE BODY WILL BE RESTORED.

-PERMANENT EFFECT, LONGEVITY: YOU WILL BE IMMUNE TO ALL DISEASES, POISONOUS SUBSTANCES, AND ANY OTHER ABNORMALITIES IN YOUR STATUS. REGENERATION ABILITIES WILL EXPONENTIALLY INCREASE WHILE ASLEEP.

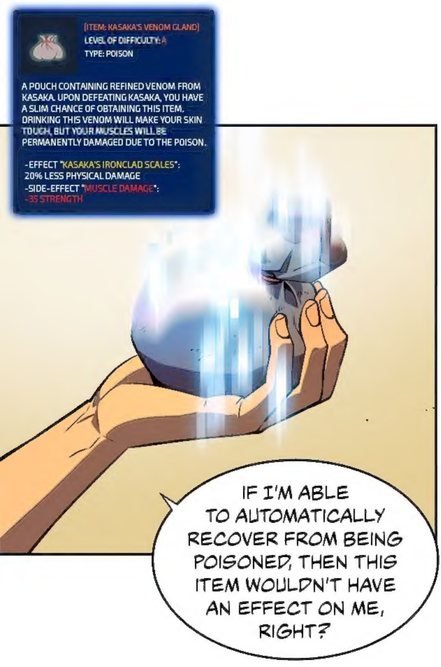
WAIT...

IF I'M IMMUNE TO ALL POISONOUS SUBSTANCES, THAT MEANS...

JINWOO, AREN'T YOU GOING TO EAT? IF YOU'RE NOT, I'M GOING TO FINISH IT ALL BY MYSELF, OKAY?!
STEP
IF YOU WANT TO GAIN WEIGHT, GO RIGHT AHEAD.

I CAN'T GET USED TO HIM EVER SINCE HE STARTED WORKING OUT.
LICK
HE USED TO BE EASYGOING, BUT IT FEELS LIKE HIS PERSONALITY HAS CHANGED...
HE LOOKS SHARPER, TOO...
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF ALL THE EXERCISE?

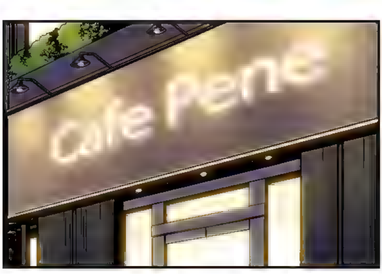
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN IN THE DUNGEONS AGAIN?


[ITEM: KASAKA'S VENOM GLAND]
LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: A
TYPE: POISON
A POUCH CONTAINING REFINED VENOM FROM KASAKA. UPON DEFEATING KASAKA, YOU HAVE A 5.1% CHANCE OF OBTAINING THIS ITEM. DRINKING THIS VENOM WILL MAKE YOUR SKIN TOUGH, BUT YOUR MUSCLES WILL BE PERMANENTLY DAMAGED DUE TO THE POISON.
-EFFECT "KASAKA'S IRONCLAD SCALES": 20% LESS PHYSICAL DAMAGE
-SIDE-EFFECT "MUSCLE DAMAGE": -35 STRENGTH
IF I'M ABLE TO AUTOMATICALLY RECOVER FROM BEING POISONED, THEN THIS ITEM WOULDN'T HAVE AN EFFECT ON ME, RIGHT?

NO NEED TO OVERTHINK IT.
GLUG
GLUG
[HARMFUL SUBSTANCES HAVE BEEN DETECTED IN YOUR BODY.]
3, 2, 1... YOU HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY DETOXIFIED.

THE MUSCLE DAMAGE EFFECT FROM ITEM: KASAKA'S VENOM GLAND HAS DISAPPEARED.
JUST AS I THOUGHT.
STRENGTH: 53
HEALTH: 30
AGILITY: 53
INTELLIGENCE: 30
SENSE: 36
PHYSICAL DAMAGE REDUCTION: 20%
PROCESSING

JINWOO, DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE NAMED YOO JINHO?
CLACK
WHO?
HE'S ASKING FOR YOU ON THE PHONE.


Cafe Pene

SIR, OVER HERE!

HOW DID YOU GET MY NUMBER?
I KNOW SOMEONE AT THE

ASSOCIATION.

PULL
HOW DOES A CUP OF COFFEE SOUND?
I'M GOOD.

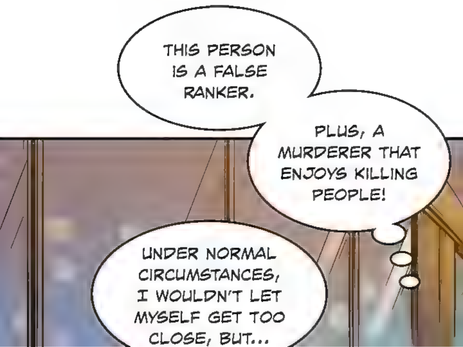
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
YOU SAVED MY LIFE.

WELL, THANKS TO ALL THE ESSENCE STONES YOU GAVE ME, I WAS ABLE TO MAKE QUITE A BIT OF MONEY.
THE TOTAL COMES OUT TO 180 MILLION WON, MINUS TAXES.

AND BECAUSE YOU'VE KEPT YOUR MOUTH SHUT, I HAVEN'T RUN INTO ANY PROBLEMS SO FAR.
COLD

SHUDDER
TH...THOSE GUYS WERE THE ONES WHO TRIED TO KILL US FIRST.

I HAVE PRIDE IN BEING A HUNTER, SO I COULDN'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
ULTIMATELY, IT WAS A BATTLE BETWEEN HUNTERS.


THIS PERSON IS A FALSE RANKER.
PLUS, A MURDERER THAT ENJOYS KILLING PEOPLE!
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, I WOULDN'T LET MYSELF GET TOO CLOSE, BUT...

SO, WHY'D YOU ASK TO SEE ME?

SIR...

ACTUALLY, I WANT TO MAKE A PRIVATE STRIKE SQUA-
THE ANSWER IS NO.
W...WAIT, I DIDN'T EVEN FINISH WHAT I WAS ABOUT TO SAY!!
I DON'T NEED TO HEAR IT ALL TO KNOW.
YOU'RE MAKING A STRIKE SQUAD AND WANT ME TO JOIN, RIGHT?
S, SIR!
TURN
NO WONDER YOU ASKED TO MEET. WELL, I DON'T PLAN ON GETTING INVOLVED WITH A RICH BOY WHO THINKS OF HUNTING AS A HOBBY.
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY, I'M LEAVING.

JUST 20 TIMES!
NO,
ACCOMPANY ME JUST 19 TIMES!

ACCOMPANY YOU WHERE? THE DUNGEONS?
YES! I'LL MAKE SURE YOU ARE HANDSOMELY COMPENSATED.

HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED ANYTHING FROM WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME?
HUNTERS CAN EASILY KILL PEOPLE TOO, NOT JUST MAGIC BEASTS.
RAIDING ISN'T LIKE EXTREME SPORTS.
YET YOU STILL WANT TO FORM A STRIKE SQUAD AND FIGHT IN THE DUNGEONS?
HOW COULD YOU WANT THAT AFTER GOING THROUGH THAT HORRIBLE INCIDENT? ARE YOU INSANE?

WAIT, DO YOU...

...WANT TO BECOME A GUILD MASTER?
YES, I DO!

PLEASE JUST

LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY, SIR.

LIKE YOU SAID, I WANT TO GET A LICENSE TO BECOME A GUILD MASTER.
IT'S NOT HARD TO GET A GUILD MASTER LICENSE IF YOU'RE A HUNTER.

YOU NEED TO BE A HUNTER THAT HAS EXPERIENCED MORE THAN 20 RAIDS.
I WENT ON MY FIRST RAID LAST TIME...
SO I HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN 19 MORE RAIDS.

OF COURSE, THERE'S ALSO A WRITTEN TEST, BUT I'M CONFIDENT THAT I'M SMART ENOUGH, SINCE I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TAKE OVER MY FATHER'S COMPANY OTHERWISE.
...

OH, YEAH. YOU'RE THE SECOND SON OF YOOJIN CONSTRUCTION.
YES.
HONESTLY, THE REASON I WANT TO BE A GUILD MASTER HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH OUR COMPANY'S PLAN.
MY FATHER IS FORMING A GUILD.

YOOJIN CONSTRUCTION WANTS TO FORM A GUILD?
DUNGEONS ARE DANGEROUS, BUT THERE ARE ALSO MOUNDS OF TREASURES HIDDEN WITHIN.
ESSENCE STONES AND MANA CRYSTALS ARE JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG.
EVEN THE CORPSES OF MAGIC BEASTS CAN BE USED FOR MATERIALS, SO THERE'S NOTHING THAT GOES TO WASTE.
IT MAKES SENSE THAT A HUGE CORPORATION WOULD WANT TO GET INVOLVED.
SO YOU'RE SAYING, THE HUNTERS EMPLOYED BY THE COMPANY WILL VENTURE INTO THE DUNGEONS, AND THE COMPANY WILL REAP THE PROFITS?
IN OTHER WORDS, THE COMPANY WANTS TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT FROM NOW ON.
THAT'S EXACTLY IT, SIR!

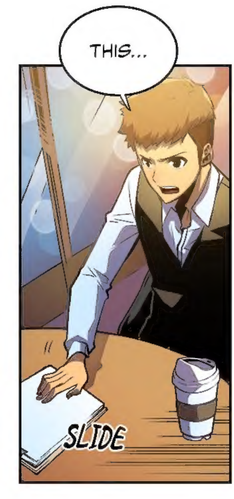
MY FATHER WANTS TO HIRE AN S-RANK HUNTER TO BE THE GUILD MASTER AND MAKE MY OLDER BROTHER THE SECOND-IN-COMMAND. THAT WAY, THE GUILD COULD BE RUN LIKE A COMPANY.

BUT THERE ARE ONLY NINE S-RANK HUNTERS IN THE COUNTRY.
IF THEY'RE TRYING TO RECRUIT A HUNTER WHO'S NOT IN A GUILD, MIN BYUNG-GU IS PROBABLY THEIR BEST CHOICE... BUT DIDN'T HE RETIRE?
EVEN IF YOUR BROTHER BECOMES THE SECOND-IN-COMMAND, THE GUILD MASTER WILL HAVE MUCH MORE AUTHORITY.
FRICTION BETWEEN THE TWO WILL BE UNAVOIDABLE.
YES, MY BROTHER IS COMPETENT, BUT UNLESS HE AWAKENS, IT'LL BE HARD FOR HIM TO TRY AND TAKE THE MASTER'S POSITION. IT'S A PROBLEM.

YOU'RE YOUNG, LOW-RANKING, AND HAVE ALMOST NO RAIDING EXPERIENCE. YOU DON'T FIT INTO THIS PLAN.
ARE YOU TRYING TO BRING IN SOME RESULTS IN ORDER TO CONVINCE YOUR FATHER?

YES, I AM.
I PROMISE TO TAKE YOUR SECRET TO THE GRAVE! THE FACT THAT YOU'RE A FALSE RAN... I MEAN, THE FACT THAT YOU'RE HIDING YOUR TRUE ABILITIES!
YOU NEED A SQUAD IN ORDER TO GO ON RAIDS WHILE KEEPING YOUR ABILITIES HIDDEN!
RATHER THAN RAIDING WITH HIGH-RANKING HUNTERS, BEING KNOWN AS SOMEONE WHO "SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A RAID WITH AN E-RANK HUNTER" WORKS MORE IN MY FAVOR AS WELL!
JINWOO IS AT THE VERY LEAST A B-RANK HUNTER...
...OR HE MIGHT BE EVEN HIGHER THAN THAT.
HE MAY BE AN E-RANK NOW, BUT HE WAS ABLE TO DEFEAT A C-RANK BOSS AND MANY OTHER C-RANK HUNTERS WITHOUT SUFFERING A SINGLE INJURY.

I COULD LOSE MY LIFE IF I RECRUIT A CLUMSY HUNTER, BUT JINWOO HAS ALREADY PROVEN HIMSELF!
HE MAY SEEM HEARTLESS, BUT HE SAVED ME ONCE FROM THE SPIDER, AND ANOTHER TIME FROM HWANG DONGSUK!
WHAT DO I GET IN RETURN?


THIS...
SLIDE

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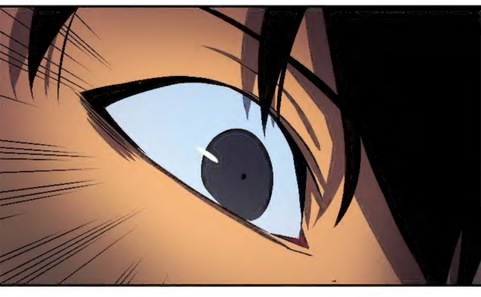

To Be Continued...

D&C WEBTOON

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